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NOTES

NASCAR stars scheduled to appear at State Fair

Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Kenny Schrader, who are at Watkins Glen this weekend for the Bud at the Glen, will return to this area on Aug. 29 for an appearance at the State Fair.

The drivers, all members of the Hendrick Motorsports team driving Chevrolet Monte Carlos, will sign autographs at the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's Motorsports Pavilion from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The pavilion will display more than 20 race cars representing the history of the sport and that of the State Fair's Syracuse Mile track. Additionally, each day at the fair there will be appearances by drivers from the local DIRT Motorsports and ISMA super modified circuits plus drag racing's NHRA series.

The 46th annual State Fair Stock Car Championships — the nation's oldest stock car race which began in 1949 — will roll on the 95-year-old dirt track with DIRT modifieds on Sept. 4.

Brickyard purse helps drivers reach milestones

The record \$4.5 million purse in last week's Brickyard 400 pushed five Winston Cup drivers to money plateaus.

Race winner Dale Earnhardt was a little disappointed that his payoff of \$565,600 fell short of Jeff Gordon's record earnings of \$613,000 in the 1994 Brickyard 400, but Earnhardt's winnings easily pushed him above \$24 million in career

earnings.

Nobody else in racing has been in such rarified air.

Bill Elliott \$223,450 for his fourth-place finish moved him over \$15 million, while runner-up Rusty Wallace crossed the \$12 million plateau, and both Mark Martin and Geoff Bodine surpassed \$9 million.

Nineteen of the 41 drivers in Saturday's race, including Earnhardt and Wallace, posted the highest single payday of their NASCAR careers.

Race at Indy was extra clean by any standards

The Brickyard 400 was the cleanest event in NASCAR's Winston Cup series since an October 1992 North Wilkesboro race went all the way without a caution flag.

There was one caution flag for a total of four laps in the race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

With so little trouble, 36 of the 41 starters were running at the end, 19 of them on the lead lap.

But that's the same number running at the end of the inaugural Brickyard 400 in 1994, despite six caution flags for 25 laps. Sixteen were on the lead lap.

With competition so close, it isn't even unusual any more for so many cars to be running at the finish.

Thirty-six cars running was the modern-day NASCAR record when it occurred in October 1993 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Since then, that mark has been tied or broken six times.

The record stands at 39, set in the Winston Select 500 at Talladega Superspeedway in May of this season.

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